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PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Hiroshi HAGIYA, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/446,634

Confirmation No.: 2661

Group Art Unit: 1642

Filed: December 23, 1999

Examiner: J. Hunt

For: NOVEL PLASMID DNA COMPRISING REPORTER GENE DNA AND USE OF THE
SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed July 1, 2002. The Examiner set an one-month period for the response. This response is timely filed.

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are before the Examiner for consideration.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that the present invention contains groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general invention concept. The Examiner requires Applicants to elect one of the following groups for prosecution on the merits:

Group I - Claims 1-4 and 20, drawn to a plasmid DNA and corresponding therapeutic agent.

Group II - Claims 5-19 and 21, drawn to a transformant and corresponding therapeutic agent.

Group III - Claims 22-23, drawn to a method for screening an agonist or antagonist.